

REQUIREMENTS FOR
SEVERELY AND PROFOUNDLY DISABLED SPECIAL EDUCATION, K – 12
CERTIFICATE
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CERTIFICATION UNIT

➤ **PROVISIONAL SEVERELY AND PROFOUNDLY DISABLED SPECIAL EDUCATION, K – 12 CERTIFICATE
(REQUIREMENTS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016)**

The Provisional certificate is valid for 3 years and is not renewable, but may be extended once for 3 years.

Requirements **effective January 1, 2016** for the Provisional Severely and Profoundly Disabled Special Education certificate are:

1. Completed [Application for Certification](#)
2. Appropriate Fee (See *Application for Certification*)
3. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (**IVP**) fingerprint card (plastic). For more information visit the [Arizona Department of Public Safety](#) website or call (602) 223-2279.
4. A Bachelor's or more advanced degree from an accredited institution. Official transcript(s) required.
5. Option A, B, or C:
 - A. Completion of a teacher preparation program in severely and profoundly disabled education from an accredited institution.
 - B. Forty-five semester hours of education courses from an accredited institution including 37 semester hours of special education courses which shall include: (1) Foundations low incidence disabilities; (2) Legal aspects; (3) Effective collaboration and communication practices; (4) Adaptive communication; (5) Instructional strategies across the curriculum; (6) Classroom management and behavior analysis; (7) Assessment and eligibility, (i) Electives; **AND**
ONE of the following:
 - A minimum of eight semester hours of practicum with students with severe and profound disabilities; **OR**
 - Two years of verified, full-time teaching experience in severe and profound special education in grades K through 12. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience.
 - C. A valid Severe and Profound Special Education certificate from another state.
6. Professional Knowledge Elementary Exam.
One of the following:
 - A. A passing score on the *NES Assessment of Professional Knowledge: Elementary* **OR** A passing score on the AEPA Professional Knowledge Elementary (replaced by the NES Assessment).
 - B. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a notarized copy of the certificate.
 - C. Three (3) years of full-time teaching severely and profoundly disabled special education, K-12. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience.
7. Subject Knowledge Severely and Profoundly Disabled Special Education Exam.
One of the following:
 - A. A passing score on the Subject Knowledge Severely and Profoundly Disabled Special Education (30) portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA).
 - B. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a notarized copy of the certificate.
 - C. Master's degree from an accredited institution in Severe and Profound Special Education.

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8. Structured English Immersion (SEI) Endorsement *

All classroom teachers and certified administrators must hold a valid Provisional or full SEI endorsement, or a full English as a Second Language (ESL) or full Bilingual endorsement. Applicants who obtain a Provisional SEI endorsement must qualify for a full SEI endorsement within three years to continue their Arizona certificate.

The SEI endorsement requirements are:

- Teachers and administrators continuously certified from BEFORE August 30, 2006:
 - 15 clock hours or 1 semester hour of Board approved [SEI training](#) is required for the Provisional SEI endorsement. An **ADDITIONAL** 45 clock hours or 3 semester hours of SEI completion training is required for the full SEI endorsement.
- Teachers and administrators certified ON OR AFTER August 31, 2006:
 - 45 clock hours or 3 semester hours of Board approved Augmented Provisional [SEI training](#) is required for the Provisional SEI endorsement. An **ADDITIONAL** 45 clock hours or 3 semester hours of SEI completion training is required for the full SEI endorsement.
- Teachers and administrators who hold a **Full** [English as a Second Language \(ESL\)](#) or **Full** [Bilingual Education](#) endorsement are exempt from the SEI requirement. Note: The Provisional ESL and Provisional Bilingual endorsements will **NOT** meet the SEI endorsement requirement.

*** Note:** The requirements for a Provisional SEI endorsement may be waived for a period not to exceed **one year** for individuals who graduate from administrator or teacher preparation programs that are not approved by the Arizona State Board of Education and meet all other applicable certification requirements.

➤ **STANDARD SEVERELY AND PROFOUNDLY DISABLED SPECIAL EDUCATION, K – 12 CERTIFICATE**

The Standard certificate is valid for 6 years and may be renewed.

Requirements for the Standard Severely and Profoundly Disabled Special Education certificate are:

1. Qualify and hold the Provisional Severely and Profoundly Disabled Special Education certificate for **2 years**.
2. **Two years** of verified full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the Provisional certificate may be used to **convert** the Provisional certificate to a Standard certificate. Submit a conversion form signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel Director verifying 2 years of full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the Provisional certificate being converted.
3. Verification of 3 semester hours or 45 clock hours of state approved Structured English Immersion (SEI) training or comparable state approved SEI training from another state to qualify for the Full SEI endorsement.
***NOTE:** Individuals who hold a Full Bilingual or Full ESL endorsement are exempt from the SEI endorsement requirement.*
4. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (**IVP**) fingerprint card (plastic).
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